> neutrality, which we shall know how to maintain, and for which there is abundant American precedent.
>
> It is devoutly to be hoped, that it will not be necessary to put armed forces anywhere into action. . . . I am a friend of peace and mean to preserve it for America as long as I am able. . . .
>
> I am not now proposing or contemplating war or any steps that would lead to it. I merely request that you will accord me by your own vote the definite bestowal of means of authority to safeguard in practice the right of a great people who is at peace. „ . .
>
> It is in that belief that I request that you will authorise me to supply our merchant ships with defensive arms, should that become necessary, and with means of using them, and to employ any other instrumentalities or methods that may be necessary and adequate to protect our ships and people in their legitimate peaceful pursuits on the seas. . . ."

The House of Representatives carried the Bill to accord these powers with an overwhelming majority. But in the Senate a group of twelve *Bill blocked in Senate* Senators, led by Senators Stone and La Follette, took advantage of the rules of the House and of the fact that Congress was adjourning on 4th March, to block and hold up the Bill so that the House could not come to a vote on it. The immense majority of the Senators

supported it, and 75 of them signed a manifesto
desiring it to be recorded that the Senate favoured
the proposed legislation, and would have carried
it if a vote could have been secured.

Several events occurred at about this time to stir